

# The Blurb

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.

c/o 641 Kismet Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115-1114



FIRST CLASS MAIL



JACK HARING  
VIRGINIA HARING - W3IIN  
2113 Edgehill Drive  
Furlong PA 18925-1101

W3IIM R

AMATEUR RADIO: WHEN NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FAIL!

# The Blurb

March 1998

HT sales jump 55% since PMRC relocation!



Public Service Since 1949



## VOLUME 48

## NUMBER 3

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 PM—**SHARP!**

## CLUB INFORMATION

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

**Internet Web site:** <http://www.comcat.com/pmrc>

**E-mail:** [pmrc@comcat.com](mailto:pmrc@comcat.com)

**2-meter repeater:** 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but transmits 91.5 Hz.)

**Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:**

*Southampton* 131.8 Hz—*Center City* 103.5 Hz—*Lansdale* 114.8 Hz—*Broomall* 85.4 Hz

**70-cm repeater:** 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

**Simplex:** 147.51 MHz

**24-hour club information at W3AA:** 215-448-1139

## STATIONS

**W3AA** - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I  
The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

**W3AA** packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

**W3AA** e-mail: w3aa@fi.edu

**W3EM** - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

**W3QV** - 147.03 MHz repeater - Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: W3CH**, Russ Stafford, 14 Eagleville Road, Eagleville, PA 19403 610-631-3401 x902

[russ@hdj.com](mailto:russ@hdj.com)—w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

**VICE PRESIDENT: AA3EP**, Charlie Weigand, 91 Moyer Road, Pottstown, PA 19464 610-323-1050

[aa3ep@aol.com](mailto:aa3ep@aol.com)—aa3ep@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

**SECRETARY: N3PVO**, Carol Sebзда, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038 215-884-5518

[n3pvo@aol.com](mailto:n3pvo@aol.com)

**TREASURER: K2BN**, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025 215-542-5991

[k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com)

## DIRECTORS

W3BBB (98); WU3I (98); W3RM (98); W3GQD (99); KB3IV (99); N3XKE (99); W3STW (A)

## COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN  
Audit: KE3OP  
Awards: AA3EP  
*Blurb* Folding: WB3KOH&J  
Budget: K3KUD  
Directory: WB3KOJ  
DX: NU3Y  
Education: W3CH  
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE  
Field Day: WU3I  
Membership: W3LEN  
Net Control: KB3IV  
Program: AA3EP  
Public Service: AA3EP  
Publicity: W3RM  
Refreshments: W3AOK  
Repeater: W3BBB  
Skywarn: N3LCV  
Special Events: N3WCO  
Sunshine: WU3I  
TVI: W3VVS  
VE Program: ND3Q  
W3AA: KB3IV  
Welcome: K3CJ  
Youth: KE3ZY

## Blurb STAFF

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Artist: N3QIE (483<sup>rd</sup> issue)

Labels: WB3KOJ

**DEADLINE:** To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the General Meeting!

## NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	*SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET*
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	*10-ON-10 NET*
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03 Butch Miller - KA3WVT

Elaine Spencer (XYL W3BBB)

06 Marilyn Miller (XYL K3KNH)

07 June Faye (XYL W3RCE)

09 Fayette Toren (XYL N2MT)

11 Gale Ackerman (XYL N3DO)

Jim Parker - N3KGH

14 Peg Lamberti (XYL KE3NP)

15 Dottie Scialdone-Maresca - K3YPH

17 Diane Henney (XYL KR2G)

18 Austin Gutman - W3FOG\*\*

21 Ben Roeshman - W3LKI

Paul Trueax - WF2X

23 Henry Platt - W3UI

Steve Rudnitsky - N3XTN

Mort Vallow - WB3IXZ

25 Perry Blum - N3AXJ

Richard Citrino Jr. - KB2TEZ

Jerrie Haldeman (XYL W3PST)

26 Susan VanMeter (XYL KE7YE\*)

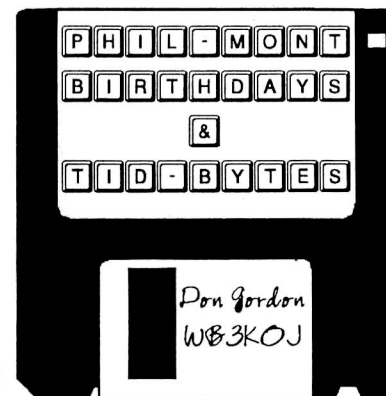
27 William (Red) MacKenzie - W3RED

28 Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)

31 Ted Lada - N3FTZ

\*Indicates New Member - 1997

\*\*Indicates former member-rejoined



**MEMBERSHIP STATS...**  
will resume in the April issue.

## LAST CALL

IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID BY THE END OF FEBRUARY, YOUR NAME WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE 1998 P.M.R.C. DIRECTORY, AND YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE APRIL *Blurb*.

## HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club ... contact our Treasurer MIKE TANNENBAUM, K2BN, for details.

**"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"**—for the courtesy 🚗!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Net Control stations should read the following announcements before asking if there are any more announcements for the net.

- On **March 4th** the Directors' meeting will be held at the home of N3JHR.
- The regular monthly VE testing will take place at The Franklin Institute on Thursday, **March 5th** at 6:30 PM. The 1998 ARRL VE test fee is \$6.35. There is no charge for the novice test.
- This month's General Meeting will be held on **March 11th**. when our program will be the **MS150 Thank-You Pizza Party**.
- Don't miss your chance to win an Alinco dual-band radio. Only 200 tickets are available for purchase at \$10 each. The proceeds will help fund this year's club picnic. Details are in this month's *Blurb*.

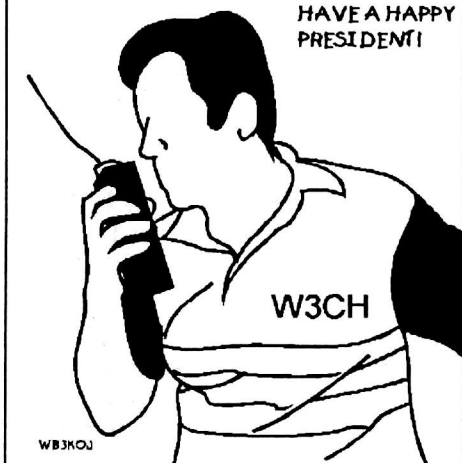
**Come to a Phil-Mont meeting,  
and see what all the talk is about!**



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALL: **N3NNA**  
 NAME: **David Anderson**  
 NICKNAME: **Big Dave**  
 CLASS: **Technician**  
 ADDRESS: **33458 Bob Smith Road  
 Parsonburg, MD  
 21849**  
 OCCUPATION: **Electronics Technician**  
 HOME PHONE: **410-548-5864**  
 BUSINESS PHONE:  
 E-MAIL:  
 PACKET: **n3nna@n3nna.#sepa.pa.usa.noam**  
 COMMITTEES: **Emergency**

RUSS IS A HAPPY CAMPER SINCE THE REPEATER MOVE...HE CAN TALK FROM HIS EASY CHAIR USING AN HT. IT'S NICE TO HAVE A HAPPY PRESIDENT!



WB3KQJ

## The PREZ SEZ

Russ Stafford, W3CH



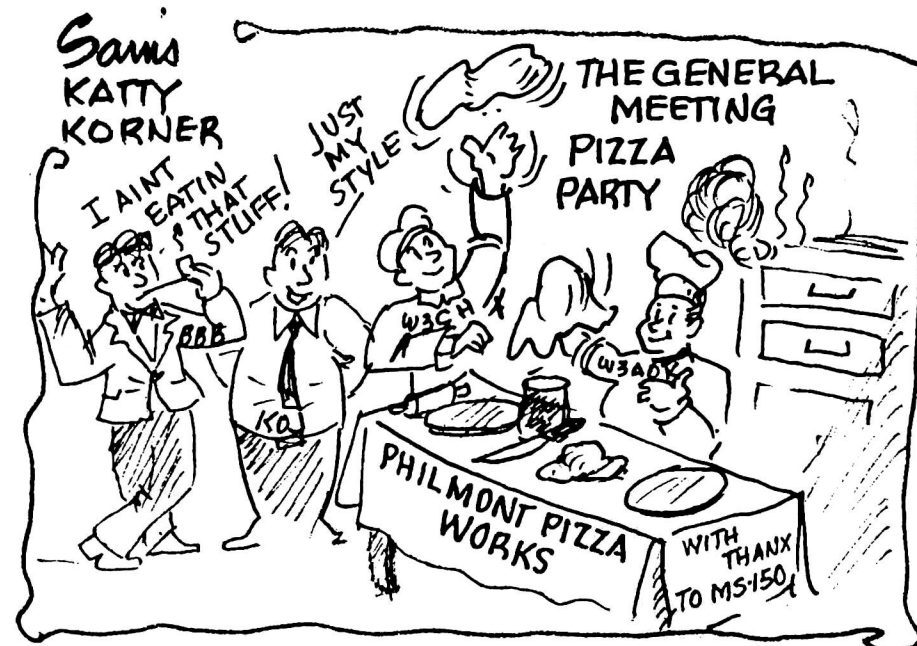
Well, Spring is right around the corner! I'll bet those honey-do lists are getting longer waiting for that first nice day! But don't forget to mark your calendar for Sunday, August 23rd. This will be the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club family picnic. Bring your better half and the kids. It will be at the same place as last year. Swimming, volleyball and all the food you can eat! More details will be coming soon.

Now on to business. As you all know, I like to mention the Phil-Monsters who work very hard behind the scenes. One such person is Gary, N3WPE. Although he is a

very new member, Gary has found a place in the list of the unknown PMRC members. What, you may ask, does Gary do for the club? Well, he makes up the neat red badges that you get when you become a member! And a fine job he does I might add. Gary is this month's winner of the BIG THANK YOU!

As you all know by now, unless you live in a cave, the 147.03 and the 444.800 repeaters are settled into their new home. All reports are good. Our system now works as well as any other repeaters in the Philadelphia area. The words "AN HT IS ONLY GOOD FOR 1 WATT 1 BLOCK" need

*Continued on page 10*



## UPCOMING

- Mar 4 Directors' Meeting at  
N3JHR's  
(15150 Milford St.—NE Philly)
- Mar 5 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- Mar 11 **General Meeting  
MS150 wrap-up  
and Pizza Party!**  
~ ~ ~
- Apr 1 Directors' Meeting at  
W3GQD's
- Apr 2 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- Apr 8 **General Meeting Program  
R.A.C.E.S**

## HAMFESTS

- Mar 7 ABSECON, NJ  
Shore Points ARC
- Mar 15 YORK, PA  
Keystone VHF
- Mar 28-29 TIMONIUM, MD  
Baltimore ARC
- Apr 5 TRENTON, NJ  
Delaware Valley RA
- Apr 25 WARREN COUNTY, NJ  
Cherryville Repeater Assn.
- Apr 26 NEW CASTLE, DE  
Penn-Del ARC
- May 3 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA  
Warminster ARC
- May 15-17 DAYTON, OH  
Hamvention
- July 12 KIMBERTON, PA  
MARC's "Valley Forge Hamfest"

## V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1998 test fee is \$6.35; there is no charge for a Novice test.

- **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**  
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q  
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours
- **BELLMAWR, NJ**  
Diane Nafis  
609-227-6281
- **BRISTOL**  
George LeNoir  
215-943-4886
- **LINWOOD, PA**—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)  
Russ Stafford, W3CH  
610-631-3401 x902
- **NORRISTOWN**  
Raymond Patton  
610-279-1897
- **TELFORD**  
Joseph Burgess  
215-723-6697
- **UNIVERSITY OF PA**  
Jeff DePolo  
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home
- **WARMINSTER**  
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494
- **WILMINGTON**  
Giselle Walls  
302-478-2757

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP 610-323-1050  
aa3ep@aol.com  
Russ Stafford, russ@hdj.com

MS Walk (formerly Super Cities Walk)—  
April 19 & May 3 (see page 7 for more details)

CoreStates USPro Cycling Championship—  
June 7

## What if Dr. Seuss wrote technical manuals?

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort, And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, Then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

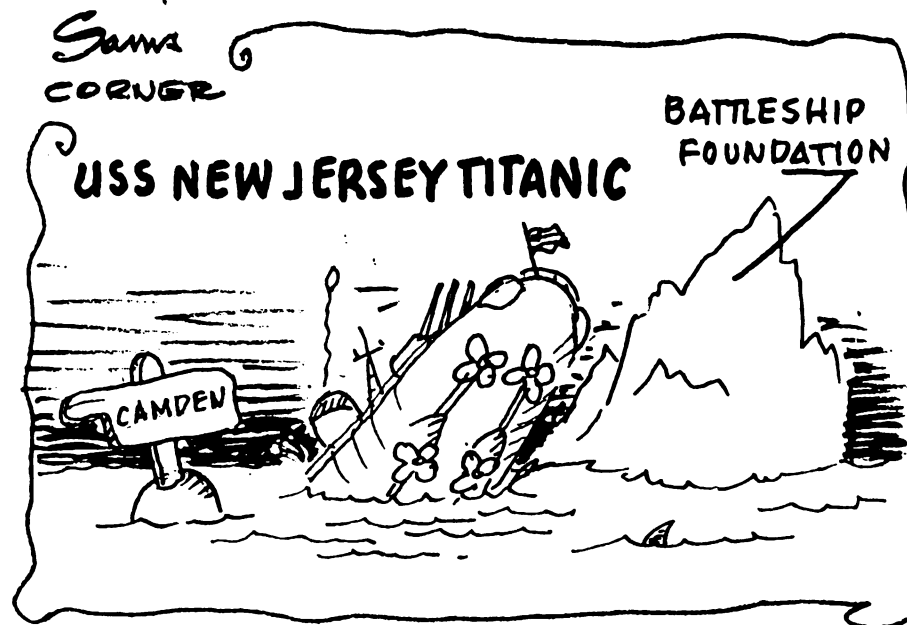
If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, And the double-clicking icons put your window in the trash, And the data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash, Then your situation's hopeless, and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on your cable on the gable on your house, Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, But your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, So your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse, Then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, 'Cause as sure as I'm a poet, the suckers gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk, And the microcode instructions cause unnecessary RISC, Then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM, Quickly turn off your computer and be sure to tell your Mom.

Anonymous  
*The Hilltopper*





# DX Report

*Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y*

**3A - MONACO DJ7RJ** will be operating as 3A/DJ7RJ from February 28th to March 12th. Listen on 1833 kHz around 0400 UTC for his CW.

**3B7 - ST. BRANDON** 3B8CF, 4X1DF/A, HB9ABO, HB9ADP, HB9AFH, HB9BQI, HB9AHL, HB9AJW, HB9BQI, BH9BQW, HB9BXE, HB9JAI and K5KG are planning a major DXpedition to St. Brandon from May 6th to 17th. All bands, all modes (incl. RTTY & SSTV) with multiple stations operating 24 hrs./day. Support is being solicited; contact Josef Meier, HB9AJW via email at [100450.540@compuserve.com](mailto:100450.540@compuserve.com)

**3C0 - ANNOBON Major DXpedition here is scheduled for early March. All bands, CW, SSB & RTTY with concentration on 160, 80, and 40 meters.**

**9N - NEPAL RU6FP is active now through May as 9N1FP. Activity is only on 20 & 40 meters. QSL via CBA (call book address of his home QTH)**

The big DX news that came in January from the ARRL is the revision to the DXCC program rules and award structure that were recommended by the DXCC 2000 Committee to the ARRL Board. There are a number of changes. The Part 1 (Point 1) criteria are dramatically changed. These changes are designed to help minimize controversy surrounding certain politically charged decisions. The current awards offerings will remain. Newly deleted entities will be removed rather than retained for "deleted" credit. The DXCC software will be revised

to allow a) electronic submission of field checked confirmations, b) revamping the field checking program to require only one checker who will be able to check all cards, and c) additional awards.

GL ES GD DX DE NU3Y

P.S. Thanks to the membership of PMRC for the get well card! 🛎

## THE 1998 PHIL-MONT FAMILY PICNIC

Once again we will have the Family Picnic at the General Washington Golf and Swim club, just north of Norristown, Pa. This year's event will be held on Sunday, August 23rd. There will be more details as we get closer to the event.

The price per person will depend on the number of raffle tickets sold. As last year, it will be fully catered, and, of course, bring the whole family, and leave the HTs at home!

**If you have any questions please call me; I'm in the directory. 73 Chris, N3WCO**

**WIN A STATE OF THE ART ALINCO DR-505T**  
MOBILE/BASE RADIO  
DUAL BAND • 2-METER & 440 • CROSS-BAND  
OPERATION  
100 MEMORIES • 50 WATTS VHF • 35 WATTS UHF  
INTERNAL ANTENNA DUPLEXER • MULTI-  
SCANNING FUNCTIONS • MARS CAPABLE  
INDEPENDENT VHF/UHF  
TX-RX INDICATORS • PLUS MANY MORE  
FEATURES

**ONLY 200 CHANCES WILL BE SOLD.** DRAWING TO  
BE HELD AT THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO  
CLUB MEETING - JUNE 10, 1998 - 7 PM AT THE  
FRANKLIN INSTITUTE SCIENCE MUSEUM, 20th &  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY - PHILADELPHIA  
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW...ONLY \$10 each  
MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:  
PMRC - BOX 88 - ABINGTON PA 19001  
(Please include a self addressed stamped envelope.)



# MINUTES

## FEBRUARY DIRECTORS' MEETING

*Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary*

The February Directors' Meeting was opened at 8:00 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). The following Officers and Board members were present: Russ (W3CH), Charlie (AA3EP), Carol (N3PVO), Mike (K2BN), Jim (W3BBB), Steve (WU3I), Dick (W3RM), Ed (KB3IV) and Gene (N3XKE).

The following committees reported.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported that this has been a momentous month. As of right now we have over \$5,000 in available funds. Receipts were \$2,127.50, with disbursements of \$258.40, leaving a net change in funds of \$1,869.10 for the month.

**REPEATER** - Rick (N3DHI) read a report prepared by Jim (W3BBB) on the status of the repeater and the repeater move. As most of you are aware the repeater operation at 8200 Ridge Ave. was shut down on Jan. 31st at 0942. With the help of N3DHI, N3OLK, W3RED and WU3I, all equipment was moved to the new shelter. Service was restored at 12 noon, Jan. 31st. with the Spectrum SCR-1000 in place for the time being.

In summary, our antennas are located 100 feet higher than at the old WFLN site. We have spent just over \$2,000 for the antenna installation, \$637 on antennas, \$125 for hard-line connectors with a donation of the hard-line valued at approximately \$2,000 and \$1,000 donated towards the shelter. A complete accounting of the total cost of moving the repeater will be given at the May Directors' Meeting. A thank-you let-

ter was prepared, and will be sent to Bill Hursh for his help building the shelter. Jim announced it was time we all new that the benefactor of the \$1,000 donation for the shelter was Bob (K3KUD).

**CORRESPONDENCE**-Jim (W3BBB) read a letter of thanks received from Luisa B. Andrews (XYL of Silent Key W3IRS).

**MEMBERSHIP** - Russ (W3CH) announced two applicants to vote on for membership to the club, Albert McFadden (N3XEI) and Eugene Gadlin (K3YW). A motion was made and approved by the Board to accept the applicants into membership. Welcome to both.

**W3AA** - Steve (WU3I) informed us that after an incident occurred, he had reinforced with The Institute that the station was not to be unlocked for anyone not knowing the access codes. All volunteers were asked several months ago to call him for the new codes. Steve also reported camps have begun again at The Institute. A schedule will be posted. The last bit of news was that the Kenwood 570 was back from repair and had been reinstalled.

**SOCIAL EVENTS** - The club picnic was discussed, and it was agreed that not all of the money from the raffle should go towards the picnic, and that there should be a small charge to attend. It was also agreed to look into the possibility of having the picnic on a Sunday rather than a Saturday.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9:55 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). Thanks to Jules (KB3AFH) for hosting the meeting. 📞

## MINUTES

## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary

The 574th General Meeting of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club was opened at 8:02:20 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). The following committees reported.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported that in January we took in about \$2100 and spent \$258 leaving a net change in funds of +\$1869.10. We are running within about \$60 of last year, so we are doing very well. We are a little ahead in collecting dues. The important thing is we have money in the bank.

**FIELD DAY** - Steve (WU3I) indicated that everything was rolling along. He has spoken to the park rangers, and will soon be paying for the use of the site. The setup will be about the same as in previous years at that site. Antennas and rotators have been acquired.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Stefanie (KE3ZY) announced the two new members voted-in at the Directors' Meeting, Albert (N3XEI) and Eugene (K3YW) and welcomed both.

**NET CONTROL** - Ed (KB3IV) said that the nets are doing very well, and thanked all who are control operators. There is a full roster to handle most of the nets. The CW Net could use one more control operator to fill in. Al (W3STW) suggested changing the net to a different day. This will be discussed at the next Directors' Meeting.

**PROGRAM** - Charlie (AA3EP) stated that the March meeting program will be the MS150 wrap-up and pizza party. Scheduled for April is a speaker from RACES. The program which was canceled this month will be rescheduled for May.

**REPEATER** - Jim (W3BBB) warned: "It's working, leave it alone."

**SPECIAL EVENTS** - Charlie (AA3EP) said that the MS walks are the first events coming up. The dates for the two walks are April 19th and May 3rd. Also the Horsham Rotary Bikethon will be in early April.

**SKYWARN** - Arthur (N3LCV) conveyed thanks from Mt. Holly to all who reported-in during the recent problems at the Jersey shore. As a reminder, there is a net every morning at 8:30 a.m. on 147.195 and on Thursday nights on 444.200 at 9:00 p.m. [and an e-mail 'list'-ed].

**SUNSHINE** - Steve (WU3I) said that Irv Miller (K3KNH) is recovering from bypass surgery, and Joe Pearlstein (NU3Y) is preparing for hernia surgery.

**W3AA** - Steve (WU3I): the 970 satellite rig has been taken out of service so the connector at the antenna end can be repaired.

**WELCOME** - Charlie (K3CJ) welcomed 35 members and 4 visitors attending.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8:32:14 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). With the last-minute cancellation of our guest speaker, the membership was left to socialize. See you all at the next regular meeting. ♪



## The IRIDIUM Constellation Communications System

Maurice Nunas

*Though the following, and subsequent articles, are written for boaters, the information will be of interest to the Amateur community.*

### Part One—A primer on satellites

First, a statement of the problem—how can we communicate voice (i.e., phone calls) and data (e.g., email) efficiently and economically between our vessel and the shore? VHF radio has limited range, well short of the capabilities of most of our vessels. MF/HF radios have a greater range, but are not very reliable due to varying propagation. Both of the above means of communication are not very user-friendly, compared to a standard telephone. Then there is the ubiquitous cellular telephone. Its range is usually even more limited than that of VHF, although it is certainly user-friendlier, if one can say that. The bottom line is, if you look at the coverage of our terrestrial-based communications infrastructure, the further one gets from inhabited areas, the poorer the service. The vast majority of the surface of the earth has no reliable coverage at all.

Well, why not use satellites, you say. Good idea, but what kind? Until recently, there was only one kind of satellite system available to the public (i.e., us boaters)—Geosynchronous satellites. GEO satellites orbit around the equator at the same period as the earth's rotation. Thus, they appear to be stationary when viewed from the surface of the earth.

In order to remain in such an orbit, GEO satellites must be located far above the earth. Consequently, the time it takes for a signal to go from one station on the earth, through GEO satellite and back to another station on the earth is about 1/3 of

a second. This gives rise to the first of several problems with using these satellites for voice communication. Most people do not like the 1/3-second delay, especially those not used to talking on radios.

The second problem is that the amount of signal reaching the earth from a satellite so far away is very low. Also, the amount of signal that it takes to transmit to one is quite high. We can compensate for this by increasing the "gain" (multiplication effect) of the antenna. Unfortunately, in so doing, the antenna becomes highly directional. This results in loss of signal when the boat rolls.

Do not think for a moment that GEO satellites are "no good." On the contrary, they are ideally suited for broadcasting and data applications, where short delays in signal transmission are not noticed. Also, with a constellation of only three or four satellites, one can cover most of the earth's surface with at least some kind of signal (the further one is from the equator the more power is required, and you cannot cover the polar areas at all).

Low Earth Orbiting (LEO) satellites overcome these GEO shortcomings, mostly because they orbit much closer to the earth. Since they are closer to the earth, much less signal is needed, and the propagation delay is much less. But, there is no free lunch. To cover the earth, you need many more satellites. Think of a flashlight beam. Inches from a surface, it illuminates only a tiny round patch—a long distance away, it can illuminate large areas.

You probably have used both kinds of satellites. TV broadcast signals are beamed via GEO satellites. The Inmarsat system (a phone and voice system used for many years on board ships) also uses GEO satellites. GPS uses LEO satellites. I hope the foregoing provides enough of a primer to make the discussion of Iridium easier to follow.

End part one ♪

# W3KG

1100 Earlington Road, Hanover, PA 19083

February 12, 1998

Philmont Mobile Radio Club, Inc  
Editor, The Blurb  
2113 Edgehill Road  
Furlong PA 18925  
Dear Jack:

I want to extend to my friends, old and new, among Philmont's membership my heartfelt thanks for your cards, letters, phone calls, etc., during my recent illness and hospitalization.

It was gratifying to receive so many expressions of friendship and support at a time when I was feeling pretty lousy indeed. I have made many ham friends during my forty-six years on the air, but few have been so enduring and consistent as those friendships I have made during my 39 years as a member of Philmont.

I'm hopeful that my convalescence will be uneventful, and am certain that it will not be newsworthy, but it will surely be helped along by the good cheer and warm wishes I've had from members of the club. Philmont is a great organization, and I continue as a Philmonter with great pride.

Thanks again, and cordial 73 to all.

Sincerely,

Jon Balch W3KG

## MS WALK SCHEDULE

Join the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in celebrating its 10th Annual MS WALK (formerly Super Cities Walk) on April 19th and May 3rd. Become a volunteer Ham to provide support to the walkers. Help the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in its ongoing mission to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. We welcome any new volunteers at one of the MS WALK's 8 sites in the Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey regions. For more information. Contact Charlie, AA3EP or Russ, W3CH

### Location

### Contact

### 1997 Participants

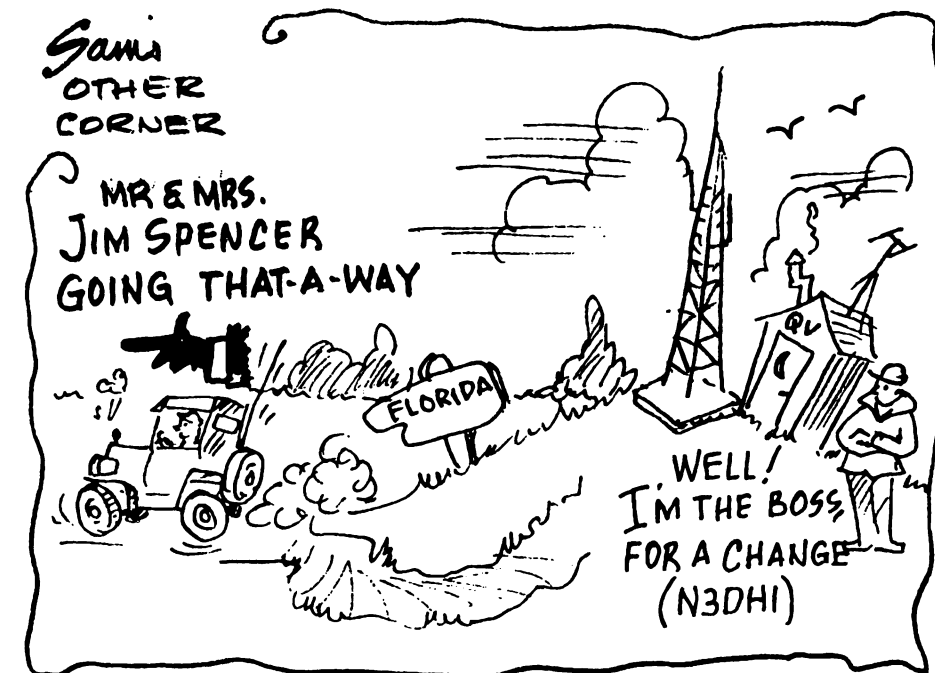
#### Sunday, April 19, 1998

Valley Forge National Park (Chester Co. Pa.)	KE3RL	1,028
Tyler State Park (Bucks Co. Pa.)	AA3AI	984
Ridley Creek State Park (Delaware Co. Pa.)	W3CH	1,784
Moorestown (Burlington Co Nj.)	K2QWQ	631

#### Sunday, May 3, 1998

Phila Museum of Art (Phila. Pa)	AA3EP	1,879
Kardon Park (Chester Co. Pa.)	N3RUK	351
Main St. Voorhees (Camden Co Nj.)	KA2YKN	987
Linwood Park NJ Shore (Atlantic Co Nj.)	TBA (SPARC)	367

These events are relatively small, and we are finished by early afternoon.



## On the mend

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Len, KD2CR

Jim, K3PHC

Joe, NU3Y

Irv, K3KNH

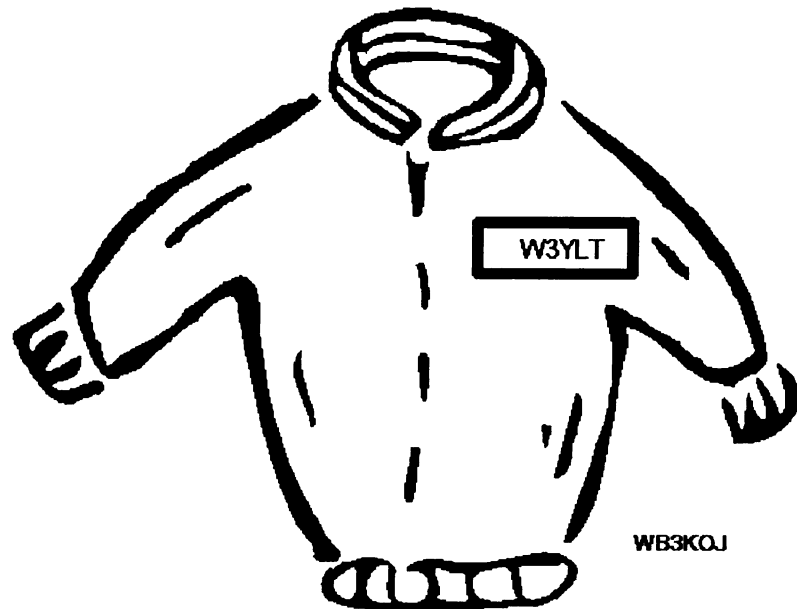
**The Horsham Rotary Bike-a-thon...** will take place this year on Sunday, April 26th. Past events have had participation by members of the Phil-Mont, Delmont, and Warminster clubs. The event covers 100 kilometers (63 miles) starting from College Settlement Day Camp in Horsham (near Willow Grove), and extending to Montgomery County Park (near Phoenixville) and return. Check-in time is 7:30 a.m., and release prior to 1:00 p.m., depending upon your location.

This is a charity event to raise money for the Rotary scholarship fund. My phone number is 215-379-3437

packet address: W3YLT@K3PGB

e-mail: W3YLT@juno.com. Phone or e-mail contact preferred. Thank you, Bob

THE EFFORTS & LABORS OF W3YLT WERE INADVERTENTLY OMITTED FROM THE SPECIAL INSERT IN THE FEB. BLURB. MY SINCERE APOLOGIES TO BOB FOR THE GRIEVOUS ERROR. PLEASE CUT OUT THIS DRAWING AND PASTE IT INTO THE INSERT.



## SOS Becomes Obsolete

LONDON, Jan. 1 (UPI)

The Morse code distress signal SOS is now officially history, but not before a 13,000 ton Bahamas-registered ship used it to call for help 790 miles west of Ireland. The SOS signal, and official use of Morse Code was formally scrapped worldwide at midnight.

The ship MV Oak was headed from Canada to Liverpool with a crew of 26 when its cargo of wood shifted in storm-force winds, and it lost all engine power Wednesday. The ship tapped out Morse code's final SOS, and the signals were picked up in Britain and passed to the Falmouth Coast Guard. The Coast Guard initially considered the message a joke signaling the end of an era. Guard spokesman Gerry Wood said, "We haven't had a Morse distress message for years. It was almost too perfect. But," he said, "we reacted knowing someone was in distress... as nobody ever sends an SOS signal as an exercise."

Ship signals are now dispatched by modern satellite voice and computer communication.

The Morse code system dates back to 1908 when British and German radio operators agreed to use the SOS message. The letters were chosen because they are simple to tap out in Morse code: dot-dot-dot, dash-dash-dash, dot-dot-dot. Wednesday's message from the Oak said only "SOS. SOS. This is Oak. Position 53 16 N, 24 59 W. Stop engine. We need assistance." British Coast Guard officials report the ship has been abandoned, and the nearest ship is some 400 miles away. But the Oak's crew and captain are reportedly aboard lifeboats." ☺

## RFI Reflector Established

An Internet reflector focusing on the causes and cures of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) has been established. It will be moderated by Tim Duffy K3LR. Issues relating to RFI and TVI are welcome. Discussions should be aimed at providing technical information to assist amateurs in resolving interference problems. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to [rfi-request@contesting.com](mailto:rfi-request@contesting.com). The message body should include only the word "subscribe." To post a message to the group, send it to [rfi@contesting.com](mailto:rfi@contesting.com).

A digest form of this list is also available. [In digest mode] you will receive one message per day around midday (Eastern Time) that contains the previous day's messages. To subscribe to the digest version, send a message to [rfi-digest-request@contesting.com](mailto:rfi-digest-request@contesting.com) and put only the word "subscribe" in the message body. You do not need to be subscribed to both reflectors. Individuals subscribed to the digest list may still post to the RFI list address. For more information, contact Duffy at [k3lr@contesting.com](mailto:k3lr@contesting.com).

Tim is the Atlantic Division's representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee and a former ARRL Technical Coordinator for Western PA Section. He has conducted antenna forums at Dayton. ARRL

**The ARRL is more than  
just a magazine  
subscription!**



## PACKET RACKET

*The Following is the first in a series of articles that will allow readers to have a better understanding of the operations & features of the new software installed at some major BBSs in The Delaware Valley.*

### Part One

*Albert McFadden, N3XEI*

**S**o... You finally got that TNC thing working, and at some point you connect to a Full-Service BBS. Now what do you do? For most Hams it can be very confusing. But it doesn't have to be that way if you know the basics. A BBS is not to be confused with a PBBS which stands for Personal Bulletin Board System, although some can be very elaborate. Most are used for seeing if your buddy is around for a chat.

The most prevalent BBS system in use in this area is of the type known as FBB which is short for F6FBB, the callsign of the amateur that wrote the software—that is considered the most advanced at this time. But other BBSs operate the same way, and many commands are interchangeable with other systems.

When connecting to a BBS you will, at some point, see the prompt which looks like this: **W3CH BBS>**. This is where you can access a wealth of information by reading messages on hundreds of topics, as well as sending and receiving mail intended for anywhere in the world. In just a few hours your ham friend in Hungary can be reading a message from your station. Don't have any friends in Hungary? You can send a reply to one of hundreds of CQ requests.

There are many other "servers" or features at your disposal that will be covered in future issues.

If you would like to list all the commands

and descriptions of how to use them, type the word **HELP** at the prompt. For a descriptions of a particular command, type **HELP** followed by the command in question.

When you arrive at the prompt of an FBB designed BBS, you can list the messages in many different formats. My favorite is to list all the categories available. To do this type **LC** ? at the prompt. This stands for List Categories. This is the best way to see what types of messages are available. By choosing a category, you will not be slowed-down by listing messages in which you may not have an interest.

Scan down the list and choose a category. Type the letters: **LC** followed by your choice. If you would like to see all of the messages on the BBS you must enter an asterisk (\*) as your choice. Now that you chose a category you can list the messages in a neater fashion by typing the following commands at the prompt.

**L** Lists *only* the new messages since the last time you used this command.

**LB** Lists all the messages, in order, that are less than 30 days old.

**LM** Lists the messages addressed to you.

**LL 10** Lists the newest 10 messages.

**LR** Lists messages in reverse—from oldest to newest.

**LS Tokyo** Searches for a message named Tokyo, and lists any that were found.

**L< WU3I** List any messages that were found written by Steve

Remember to change your LC setting back to \* if you would like to list all categories of messages.

That's all the space I'm allowed, so I will have to continue next month. If you think you already are an advanced user, I'm sure we can teach you a thing or two in future issues.

N3XEI @ N3XEI.#SEPA.PA.USA.NOAM

## Our Benefactor

**W**ith his permission, I am pleased to tell you that Bob Schmilewske, K3KUD, has made available to us \$1000 for an equipment shelter for our repeater with no strings attached. It consists of an 8 x 8 freestanding building of frame construction with a steel door and buck, vault type locking, and no sidewall or roof openings to encourage vandalism.

Power and telephone are fed from the city building with 3 hardline runs from the tower. We have electric heat for winter, and the possibility of air conditioning for hot

weather. We have 24-hour access with 4 members authorized to enter for servicing.

K3KUD joined Phil-Mont in 1961 while living in Glenside, PA., and has since moved to the Lansdale area. He is an active listener to 147.03, and has been a Director for many terms. His interest in Phil-Mont was a focal point during the long illness of his wife, Peg. This is typical of the attitude of Phil-Mont members, and is probably what has bound the club together for over 49 years. Our thanks Bob for his generosity.

de W3BBB ☺

### THE "SHACK" THAT BOB BUILT...

A BIG THANK YOU  
TO K3KUD FOR  
CONTRIBUTING  
THE FUNDS  
REQUIRED TO  
BUILD A NEW  
HOME FOR THE  
P.M.R.C.  
REPEATERS



Continued from page 3

never be said again over a Phil-Mont repeater. We now have very good HT coverage throughout most of the area. Our mobile coverage is as good as any 2-meter repeater. So the 2nd BIG THANK YOU must go to all the members who spent many hours working on the building and the relocation of our repeaters.

Ok the third BIG THANK YOU has to go to K3KUD who is the unknown (till now) member who placed \$1,000 dollars in cash in Jim's (W3BBB) hands, and said "build the club a nice place to put our repeaters." Build he did!

While we are on repeaters, our own banana hunters have been out in force working the late-night shift. What we found is kind of hurtful. Just because you are mobile does not mean you can't be caught! We now know who some of our mobile bad guys are. That's the good news. The bad news is that at least two of them are PMRC members. Now you may think that we don't know who you are. Well if you want to continue to play at night, we WILL be at your door. If it stops right now we will just put all the info on file. We will make this info available to any control op on any repeater in our area. Gee transmitter fingerprints are great, they don't lie, and are just like your own fingerprints. You kept it up long enough <smile>.

I would like to thank the many hams who helped out, as well as the amateur auxiliary for the time spent over many many nights. Also, thanks to the many repeater owners in the area for their time and help.

On to the good news. Our March meeting will be the M.S. Thank You Pizza Party. This is M.S.'s way of saying thank you to all the hams who help out, year after year, on the many fund-raising events that they participate in. You can come and pig-out, and

ask any questions you might have, such as, where does the money go that we help raise? It's always a really fun night. So come and join us for the Pig-Out Pizza Party.

Well, I must say that in the last year our club has really moved ahead. The meetings are fun, and a lot more members come out to the meetings, as well as to our public service events. The station W3AA is staffed more regularly than at times in the past. These are all things to be proud of. Now that we have momentum, let's all keep it moving in the right direction. Let's all keep supporting our club, and continue to be the best club in the Delaware Valley. Thanks for all your help!

Till next month, 73 ☺

### THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE! Navy Transmitting Facility Tour

Arrangements are being made to allow interested hams to tour the Navy Transmitting Facility (NSS Annapolis). The tentative date is Saturday, April 18. Check the Anne Arundel Radio Club home page for confirmation and more details as the date approaches.  
[www.mindspring.com/~coriolis/tour.htm](http://www.mindspring.com/~coriolis/tour.htm)

Most hams who live in the Annapolis area, or who have crossed the Bay Bridge on Route 50 are familiar with the Navy's Greenbury Point antenna farm from a distance, but few have been able to visit. The Transmitting Facility area was off limits for security reasons until the facility went off the air in January, 1995. The 1,299 foot tower, and all the lower towers, are scheduled to be taken down over the next few years. Plans call for the transmitting equipment to be removed later this year. ☹

It's Camp-In time again! Those of you who can help should please note the following dates, and contact Jenn Seva at ext 2195 no later than the Wednesday before, to advise her of your assistance

3/6 Friday Night	3/20 Friday Night
3/7 Saturday Night*	3/21 Saturday Night*
3/13 Friday Night*	3/27 Friday Night
3/14 Saturday Night	

\* Denotes an all-female night (males may not spend the night). The requested time for these nights is 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. You may stay the night to work some rare DX if you wish, but not on the all-female nights.

Last year at this time, for the station's 45th birthday, I reviewed the last 45 years. As we look ahead to our 47th birthday in 1999, we still are not sure of our future here at The Franklin Institute. There have been many rumors but little fact. We will remain an active exhibit as long as possible.

There has been some talk of a way for the public to get to the telescope without coming through the new office area to be built on the 4th floor. As we become informed we will keep you informed.

In reviewing last year's operation, I am proud to remind you of the addition of the Kenwood TS-570S with 6 meters. The entire addition of a new band cost \$40 for the Ringo antenna. Many thanks to the folks at Kenwood, and to W3HFY, Hal Grace, for two 4-element 6-meter beams which I rebuilt, and to W3TEF, Frank, for a used rotor for the beam. We had one problem with the TS570S, but it was fixed in three weeks under warranty (including shipping).

We hope for the launch of Phase 3D Oscar Satellite this year, and will add the necessary antennas and module to the Icom satellite rig.

REMEMBER—W3AA IS YOUR STATION! COME ON DOWN ONCE IN A WHILE AND PLAY!

—Steve Hoch, WU3I

# THE W 3 A A

The International Voice of The Franklin Institute Science Museum

## REPORT

Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

## 154<sup>TH</sup> MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS FEBRUARY

7 candidates took 15 elements  
2 new amateurs plus 1 upgrade

VE team members:

**Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman**

Thom Scott, KF4I; Jim McCloskey, KE3OP; Jeff Kerber, KE3UV

**AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST  
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**  
Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE  
SCIENCE MUSEUM**

For Information Call ND3Q at  
(215) 448-1139 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



**T**HE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a nonprofit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer sixty-six scholarships for the academic year 1997-1998 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-seven are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school, and are enrolled in, or have been accepted for, enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2,500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas, or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1998 from: FAR Scholarships 6903 Rhode Island Avenue College Park, MD 20740

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. ♪

On April 18 you can tour the inside of the transmitter building where you will see the huge hand-blown vacuum tubes, the room which is actually a gigantic capacitor, the hand-crafted wooden equipment frames, and all the other equipment which made this one of the world's most powerful radio transmitters. Some of the operators, who were responsible for keeping this facility on the air around the clock, will be back to explain the setup and equipment to you.

John Cummings, N3ZCE (410-293-6903) is coordinating this tour with transmitter facility staff.

Directions: Take Rt 50 toward Annapolis. At exit 27 follow Rt. 450 south toward the Naval Academy for one mile. Turn left onto Rt. 648 (at the north end of the Naval Academy Bridge). Stay on Rt. 648 through the signal light, and past the Naval Academy Golf Course. At the empty guard house continue on for another half mile. The transmitter building is the large brick building at the end of the road

NOTE: Please do not attempt to visit the towers or transmitter facility on your own. Naval Academy Police do not permit public access to this area. ♪

*Ham Arundel News*

## WORLD WAR II HAM RADIO MONITORS SOUGHT

**A** Delaware man is looking for hams and shortwave listeners who monitored enemy radio broadcasts during World War II. Frank Davis, who was captured by Germany during WWII, wants to formally recognize those who monitored radio broadcasts for information about German prisoners of war. "I'm hoping to get them a presidential citation and maybe even a monument," he told the Wilmington News

Journal last month.

Davis, a retired civil engineer, says he was captured by the Germans near the end of the War. An Army Airborne paratrooper, he had been wounded and hospitalized near Bastogne, Belgium, and was caught up in the desperate German offensive that became known as the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Davis says he and the other captors were used as slave labor.

His family, frantic to find out what had happened to him, was only told that Davis was missing in action. But then, mail and even telegrams began to arrive at his family's home saying that Frank Davis was a POW, and, despite being wounded, was alive and well. Davis says his parents got 38 cards, letters and telegrams—all of them from hams or shortwave listeners who had monitored German broadcasts and relayed the news they heard about POWs.

After the War, Davis took up an engineering career, got married, and raised a family.

It wasn't until two years ago that Davis—who'd earned a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge—decided to find the hams who had alerted his parents during the War. He wrote letters to all 38 individuals and heard back from three, with whom he now corresponds. Now, he'd like to hear from others. To contact Frank Davis, write PO Box 6207, Stanton, DE 19804; fax 302-994-0109.

*The ARRL Letter*

**CLUB INFORMATION**  
24 Hour Information Number at W3AA  
**(215) 448-1139**

1998

## MARCH

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3PWG	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	<b>4</b> DIRECTORS' MEETING at N3JHR's	<b>5</b> 155 <sup>th</sup> LICENSE EXAM Session at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 2M NCS WA3NSP 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3STW  <i>Absecon Hamfest</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP	<b>11</b> GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30	<b>12</b>  <i>Lunar Eclipse</i>	<b>13</b> ○	<b>14</b>  <i>Blurb Deadline!</i>
<b>15</b> 2M NCS N3OWM 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS N3JDM  <i>York Hamfest</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3AOK  <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <i>Vernal Equinox 2:55 p.m.</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 2M NCS W3STW 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS KB3IV	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> ●  <i>Timonium Hamfest 1/2</i>
<b>29</b> 2M NCS N3DHI 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS N3DHI  <i>Timonium Hamfest 2/2</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP		Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.		